

Conditions

Triangle ABC with side AC extended through D, $m\angle A=37$ and $m\angle BCD=117$. Which side of triangle ABC is the longest side? Justify your answer

Solution

The longest side in triangle is always opposite to a biggest angle.

$$\angle BAC = 37^\circ, \angle BCD = 117^\circ$$

$$\angle BCD \text{ is the exterior angle, so } \angle BCA = 180 - 117 = 63^\circ$$

And

$$\angle ABC = 180 - \angle BCA - \angle BAC = 180 - 63 - 37 = 80^\circ$$

The biggest angle is $\angle ABC$. That's why the largest side is AC.